

IN REVIEW

LILACS IN THE DOORYARD

By Marian Keith

An extremely pleasant book that will be enjoyed by many is "Lilacs in the Dooryard," by Marian Keith. The setting is on the shores of Georgian Bay, and it will be as familiar to many other readers as to the reviewer. The land, the view, the farms and the farmers themselves ring familiar notes that continue to sound throughout the whole book. A reader feels as friendly with the people who live there, too, as he or she already is with the country.

A deserted house becomes occupied again one spring day when the lilacs are in bloom. A young minister, who had been wounded overseas with the air force, had come there to recuperate. With him came his bride, whose father had been a minister in the small church just down the road before he died. They come back among friends and make new ones during Dallas Laird's convalescence.

Dallas and Ellen take a special interest in a heart-warming neighbor girl, Maggie Bell, and her love for Neil McNeil, whom many considered not much good.

Thank goodness the farm people aren't considered as "quaint" at all. Their grammar is not always perfect, but they are credited with as much sense in this modern day and age, and as much knowledge of the world, as city people of their own bracket. The fact they live in the country isn't exploited but rather adds to the feeling of easy pleasantness of this novel.

A pleasant aspect of this novel by Marian Keith is the apt word pictures of animals. One lovely dog romps through the pages large as life, too. Here is an example, just a slight deviation from the plot

which moves, on the whole, pleasantly and continuously forward. "The jays were a joy to watch as they fought and sported in the bare branches. They were so beautiful in their sky blue and soft grey with exquisite markings. Here and there the scarlet apples still hung in the orchard trees, and the beauties fought and screamed and scolded over them."

And here is an example of how the animals nudge their way right into the fore of the story:

"When their day's work was done... they sat reading or playing games before the fire or just talking-over-the future. Sandy was as happy as the other two and did his best to join in with everything they were doing. He lay on his mat, one paw folded under him as was his habit, his nose on the other. He dozed occasionally, but when there was any fun or laughter his head came up and he was alert and interested. When they played games and grew excited over them he would get up, waving his tail and come over to the table to see how the contest was going. Then when the visitor laughed and boasted he would jump about rejoicing too, quite impartially, no matter who won."

Any one who loves dogs will be interested to know what happened after that.

Notice to Creditors AND OTHERS

In the Estate of Hugh Land.

All persons having claims against the estate of Hugh Land, late of the Township of Nassagaweya, in the County of Halton, Retired Farmer, deceased, who died on or about the 6th day of April, 1952, are hereby notified to send into the undersigned personal representatives of the said deceased on or before the 30th day of April, 1953 full particulars of their claims. Immediately after the said date the said personal representatives will distribute the assets of the said deceased having regard only to the claims of which it shall then have notice.

Dated at Burlington this 6th day of April, A.D. 1953.

William Norman Land and Annie May Land, Executors, By Cleaver & Crawford, Burlington, Ont. their solicitors herein.

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LAYETTES TO DRINKING TROUGH ACTON W.I. SERVES IN MANY WAYS

Minutes of Acton Women's Institute meetings for the past half century reveal that the group has had many worthwhile projects in that time. Last month, when the W.I. celebrated its 50th anniversary in Acton United Church, the present secretary, Mrs. Fred Anderson, read a history of the group she had prepared. Here is what she told the many ladies assembled to mark the event.

The Women's Institute of Acton are proud today to honor the birth of an Institute Group, in this community 50 years ago. We consider it a privilege to be only a small part of this great family tree, which has spread throughout all the world and grows in the strength it receives from the various branches.

We in Acton claim to be the oldest Women's organization in this community, outside of the church groups, being organized on March 24th, 1903, just two years after the first county branch was organized.

This first meeting was held in the Hall known as Hill's Hall, later known as the Band Hall and now a living apartment, situated next to Mr. Barr's store. The county vice-president, a Mrs. Robertson, presided and the guest speaker was Mrs. Torrance from Chantey Basin who demonstrated the making of an angel cake.

Miss Meda Nelson, now Mrs. J. R. Kennedy of Unionville, was elected the first president. We regret that ill health prevented her being with us at this time. Mrs. John Cameron was the first secretary. Many other familiar names are brought to mind with the work of the early years. Mrs. Jas. Warren, Mrs. A. P. Brown, Mrs. Thomas Grey, Mrs. H. P. Moore, Mrs. A. Stevenson, Mrs. Joseph Holmes, Mrs. W. H. Stewart. (Mrs. A. T. Brown is the only one of these early members that we are able to have with us to-day.)

Throughout the years we learn that making quilts has been one particular hobby. The old time friendship quilt with 10 cents for your name, seemed to be the best way to raise finances.

The again, amateur plays and old time concerts were well patronized. Some of the plays were "The Old Maid's Convention," "The Dust of the Earth," and "Aunt Susan's Visit." A good play always finds favor to an Acton audience. It was in the year 1912 the various branches, in co-operation with the county, compiled a cook book, which sold for 50 cents, with every recipe a favorite, and tested for its quality. There are a few homes which still rely on these, but the modern age of cake mixes, makes a recipe book almost an outcast.

The year of 1914 brought about the First World War and again in 1939 the second; in both of these the Women's Institute gave willingly in many ways. First in clothing the children of France and Belgium, both during the first War and the years following. These are the things that a community is proud to remember. During the second War the call for good used clothing for Russian relief, was convened by our local branch and the response was magnificent, 3000 lbs. being sent in one shipment alone.

During the second War the W.I. provided jam for the people of Britain and Halton County had a marvelous record in this work. Lastly the seeds for Britain were provided and sent through the Women's Institute of Canada to which we contributed our share.

We try to keep our Motto ever in our hearts, "For Home and Country," and have given a few gifts to our community that are worthy of note. In the year 1921 the drinking fountain was installed in front of the Post Office and later removed to the corner of the Y.M.C.A. Then, in 1922, the drinking trough on Main Street, south of the main intersection of Mill, was installed.

It was in the year 1926 the Council granted the ladies permission to erect a permanent refreshment booth in the park. Over the years this has been kept in good repair by the group and rented for a small fee to any who require to use it. On Acton Fair Days the W.I. served hot dinners here and refreshments throughout the day.

It was about this time, that the W.I. in co-operation with the local dentists gave free dental services to all school children who required it and whose parents were unable to finance it.

In 1936, after the erection of the Y.M.C.A. a generous donation was made towards the recreation room there with the promise of its use for the meetings. However, with the large membership enrolled at the Y's classes, it was found impossible to hold meetings there, so the meetings are held in the homes of the members now.

In 1938 the beautiful entrance to Fairview Cemetery was erected. This was a big undertaking, but what a credit to those women who worked so faithfully to accomplish this outstanding piece of architecture.

During the early years of the Halton Musical Festival our W.I. donated a shield and always have given financial help for this musical training among our school children.

For many years the W.I. have kept on hand a baby's lavette for any need that was reported. Later years with better working conditions, the calls are not so numerous.

With the inception of the Halton Health Unit, our Women's Institute was asked for volunteer helpers at the local clinic twice a month, so

since September 1948, two or three of our group are in attendance there and provide cookies for the children.

Always interested in the work of Mr. Chas. Mason in his organizing the boys' and girls' band, the W.I. tendered them a banquet when they won honors at the Musical Tattoo and Toronto Exhibition, and presented them with the first check toward their new uniforms.

In 1952 when the new addition to the Public School was built, our group was happy to present a trophy cabinet which is in the main hall and was built for them by Mr. Wm. Mainprize, Jr.

As a group we take part in all community work and although small in number we are always proud to represent this wonderful organization in whatever capacity we may and contribute to all the worthy causes as our finances will allow.

Our latest and present project in sponsoring the penny round-up for aid to mental health.

During these fifty years it is only fitting that we remember those who have held the office of president and secretary: Mrs. J. R. Kennedy, Mrs. A. T. Brown, Mrs. James Warren, Mrs. John Cameron, Miss Ada Holmes, Mrs. J. E. Gamble, Miss Jessie Harvey, Mrs. Geo. Havill, Mrs. W. D. Stewart, Mrs. W. Laird, Miss Clara Ebbage, Mrs. George Agnew, Mrs. E. Graham, Mrs. H. S. Wilson, Mrs. J. Folster, Mrs. Wallace Lasby, Mrs. James Dobbie, Mrs. George Lantz, Miss E. Hawthorne, Mrs. A. Reesor, Mrs. A. Wilderspin, Mrs. W. J. Reid, Mrs. T. Lappin, Mrs. F. J. Wilds, Mrs. G. Lazenby, Mrs. F. L. Davidson and Mrs. Anderson.

The District Annual meeting has been held in Acton seven times and the Acton Group are always proud to welcome the members to our community on these occasions.

The Women's Institute is a group of women where race or color, class or creed is no obstacle, banded together for one purpose—"Home and Country."

TWO SCOUTERS LEAVE

Two Boy Scout Leaders, Arthur Martin of Cambridge, Eng., and Ian Clarke of Brisbane, Australia recently left Southampton on board the Falkland Islands Dependency Survey Vessel, "John Biscoe" on her annual relief voyage to sever British Antarctic bases. The Scouters will serve as meteorological assistants on the Falkland Islands for 18 months.

SURPRISE MEETING

A lady was entertaining her friend's small son.

"Are you sure you can cut your meat?" she asked, after watching his struggles.

"Oh, yes," he replied, without looking up from his plate. "We often have it as tough as this at home."

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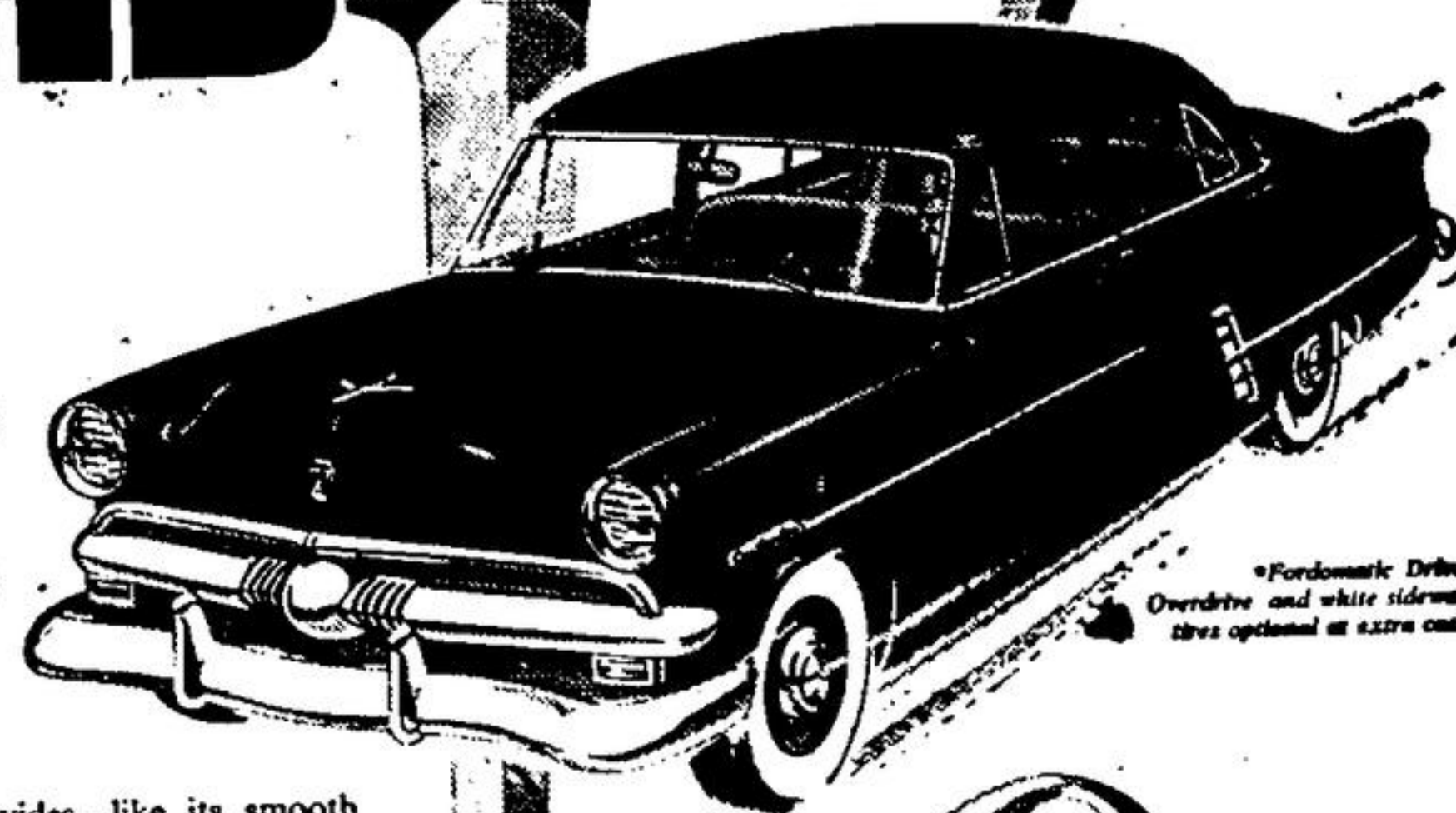
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